

HISTORY

Spray Methodist
Episcopal
Church, South

SPRAY, N. C.



1901 -- 1934



*"Come unto Me all ye who are burdened and
heavy laden, and I will give ye rest."*

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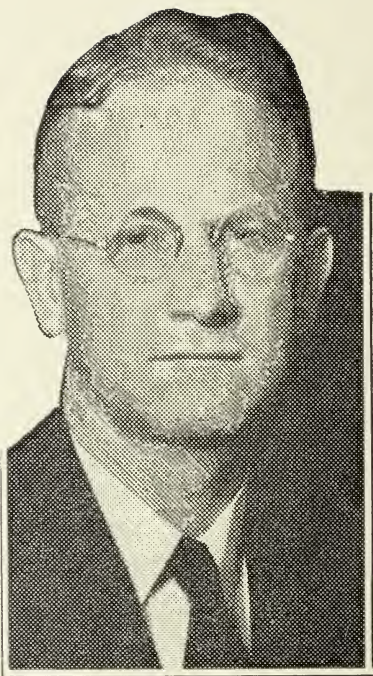
Foreword

This anniversary booklet of the Spray Methodist Church is being published in the hope that it will render a service to the members and friends of the church. It is hoped that the information contained herein will present briefly a clear picture of the past history and accomplishments of this church and that it will inspire a greater effort on the part of those who now bear the responsibilities of the affairs of this great institution.

May God's richest blessings rest upon Spray Methodist Church as it presses forward in its work of spreading the gospel in this community.

September, 1934.

The Editors.



REV. A. C. WAGGONER
1933-

Early History and Growth

"And I say unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." It was on a Sunday morning back in 1900 that Z. T. Hamilton read this memorable and prophetic verse from the 16th Chapter of Saint Matthew. He was standing before a small group of zealous Methodists in front of the little "Red School house," on Morgan Street, Spray. They had met to form the first Methodist Sunday School in Spray.

As Mr. Hamilton read the words "this rock," he pointed to a large rock in the school house yard on which his foot rested. This very rock was later moved farther up the hill and made a part of the foundation of a church which was built not far from this spot.

This first meeting was held out of doors because the sanitary condition of the interior of the school building was judged unfit for use as a meeting place. Immediately after this meeting B. Frank Mebane very generously and considerately purchased a tent and donated it to the group to be used as a meeting place. This tent was erected on the lot just back of the location of the present church building, about on the spot now covered by the reservoir. This tent was used by the congregation until the church was erected.

Previous to this outdoor meeting at the schoolhouse, W. D. Phillips, Z. T. Hamilton and M. F. Whitsell had met at the home of Mr. Phillips and made plans for the school. The officers of the first Sunday School were Z. T. Hamilton, superintendent; W. D. Phillips, secretary; M. F. Whitsell, teacher of the male class, and Mrs. Nannie Hamilton, teacher of

the ladies' class. There were fifteen pupils in this first school. In the fall of this same year W. D. Phillips was made superintendent and served faithfully for fourteen years.

After the group moved into the tent and began holding meetings there, Mr. Mebane suggested that the body should have a permanent church building in which to meet. He further advised that he himself would be glad to pay one-half the amount necessary for funds to be used in erecting the building, provided the congregation would pay the other half. Mr. Phillips and others got busy and within a few days had raised the congregation's share of the fund. They were then ready to start work on the new structure. This was in the summer of 1901, and in the fall of the same year Spray was taken into the Methodist Conference.

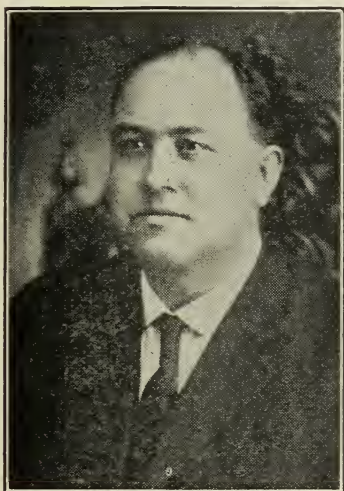
Soon after becoming a member of the conference, the Spray church, while still meeting in the tent, held a revival. The pastor of the Madison church, assisted by the Rev. Amos Gregson, conducted the meeting. Much interest was aroused by this series of services.

New Church Home

It was again suggested by Mr. Mebane that the congregation should get busy with the building of the church in order that the group might have a more comfortable place in which to meet by the time winter came. Accordingly, a board of trustees and a building committee composed of W. D. Phillips, chairman, Z. T. Hamilton, R. P. Ray, T. W. Field, J. M. Hopper, Amos Gregson and Mr. Lane, was appointed and a contract made with Charles Field to erect the building. J. M. Hopper drew the plans for the new

building. The church building was completed before the winter months and the Rev. Mr. Gregson preached the first sermon in the new structure.

Just before the congregation moved from its temporary meeting place in the tent, a revival was conducted by Rev. J. A. Bowles, of Madison, and a permanent



REV. J. P. HIPPS
1913-1914

church organization was formed. There were thirty-eight members at this time.

Following completion of the church building, the church was put under the Leaksville church with Rev. A. L. Stanford as pastor. Preaching services were held two Sundays a month. It was about this time that W. D. Phillips was made Sunday School superintendent. The late A. D. Ivie organized and taught the first Baracca class.

Charter Members

The charter members of Spray Methodist Church were W. D. Phillips, Mrs. Nannie Hamilton, Z. T. Hamilton, Nettie Hamilton Nichols, Mrs. E. S. Fulcher, Mrs. Alice Ferguson, Mrs. Jesse Vestal, Amos Gregson, Wilson Kemp, Mrs. Minnie Bibee, Mrs. Lillie Hayden, and Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Sherwood. The first trustees were R. P. Ray, Z. T. Hamilton and W. D. Phillips.

It is an interesting fact that the first money paid into the building fund for the new church was contributed by Mrs. Alice Ferguson, the amount being \$25.00; the second contribution of \$50.00 was paid by W. D. Phillips; the third contribution of \$50.00 was made by R. P. Ray. It is also interesting to note that the clock was presented to the congregation by a Chinese citizen of Spray.

In 1902 Rev. A. L. Stanford held another revival at Spray. The church was a part of the Leaksville church at this time and Mr. Stanford was pastor of the two places.

A Directory Issued

In 1903 the Methodist churches of Leaksville and Spray jointly issued an instructive and interesting little directory giving much pertinent information about the two sister churches for that period. J. R. Frazier has a copy of this booklet in his possession at the present time. The roll of official members of the Spray church shows the following "TRUSTEES—W. D. Phillips, T. W. Field, Z. T. Hamilton, J. H. Lane, E. D. McCollum, C. F. Field, J. F. Lane, J. W. Henson, J. M. Hopper. STEWARDS—W. D. Phillips, Z. T. Hamilton, F. M. Whitsell, E. D. McCollum, J. R. Wilson. SUNDAY SCHOOL—W. D. Phillips, superintend-

ent; Miss Lillie Phillips, organist. **TEACHERS**—W. D. Phillips, Mrs. Z. T. Hamilton, Miss Florence Pugh, Mrs. Minnie Bibee, F. M. Whitsell, Miss Alice Boone, C. F. Paxton, L. S. Waller, J. R. Wilson, G. W. DeShazo, Mrs. W. S. Hodges, Mrs. Cornelia Campbell, Miss Emma Eanes, E. D. McCollum. **TIME OF SERVICE**—Sunday School 9:45 A. M. Prayer meeting Tuesday night. Preaching 1st and 3rd Sunday, morning and night. Communion every other first Sunday. Envelope collection for pastor's salary, first Sunday in each month. Stewards earnestly request each member to pay every month."

It will be interesting to the older members of the church to know that in the the back of the little booklet are advertisements of J. W. Henson, who sold organs and pianos; J. C. Harris, dealer in furniture and undertaking goods; C. T. Ross, jeweler; D. E. Field, general merchandise; Lister A. Martin, fruiter and confectioner; J. W. Norman, insurance; T. W. Field, Testaments and Bibles; Whorley's Studio, photographs.

Pastors and Members

Year	Pastor	No. Members
1902	A. L. Stanford	243
1904	A. L. Stanford	377
1903	A. L. Stanford	349
1905	W. M. Biles	262
1906	W. Y. Scales	264
1907	A. W. Jacobs	202
1908	A. Sherrill	250
1909	T. C. Jordan	242
1910	T. C. Jordan	242
1911	T. C. Jordan	255
1912	T. C. Jordan	255
1913	J. F. Hipps	315
1914	J. F. Hipps	237
1915	J. A. J. Farrington	257

1916	J. F. Armstrong	225
1917	J. F. Armstrong	265
1918	J. F. Armstrong	289
1919	J. F. Armstrong	285
1920	J. W. Ingle	313
1921	W. L. Dawson	289
1922	W. L. Dawson	313
1923	C. W. Bowlin	307
1924	C. W. Bowling	348
	H. P. Powell	
1925	H. P. Powell	348
1926	H. P. Powell	422
1927	H. P. Powell	502
1928	M. W. Heckard	371
1929	D. R. Proffitt	376
1930	D. R. Proffitt	369
1931	Seymour Taylor	476
1932	W. H. Willis	534
1933	W. H. Willis	542
1934	A. C. Waggoner	462



REV. H. P. POWELL
1924-1927

NOTE: Leaksville and Spray were in the Winston District until about 1904. In 1904 Spray was made a station. In 1906

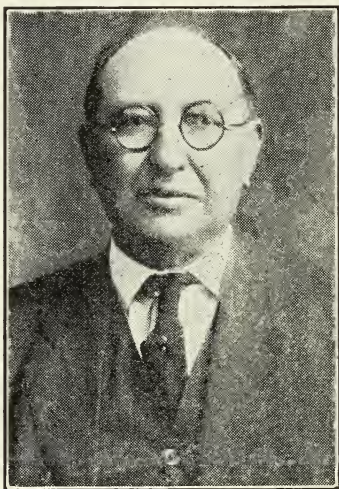
Spray and Draper were together. In 1910 this church was put in the Mt. Airy District. In 1914 Spray was again made a station. Rev. H. P. Powell came to Spray in August, 1934, to fill the unexpired year of C. W. Bowling, resigned.

Presiding Elders

Years	Presiding Elders
1902	D. Atkins
1903	D. Atkins
1904	J. R. Scroggs
1905	J. R. Scroggs
1906	J. R. Scroggs
1907	J. F. Moore
1908	J. F. Moore
1909	J. F. Moore
1910	J. F. Moore
1911	R. M. Taylor
1912	R. M. Moore
1913	R. M. Hogle
1914	H. C. Sprinkle
1915	H. C. Sprinkle
1916	H. C. Sprinkle
1918	W. F. Womble
1919	W. F. Womble
1920	W. F. Womble
1921	J. H. West
1922	J. H. West
1923	J. H. West
1924	J. H. West
1925	E. W. Fox
1926	E. W. Fox
1927	E. W. Fox
1928	E. W. Fox
1929	W. E. Poovey
1930	W. E. Poovey
1931	W. E. Poovey
1932	W. E. Poovey
1933	A. C. Gibbs
1934	A. C. Gibbs

Present Pastor and Family

Rev. A. C. Waggoner was sent to Spray Methodist Church by the 1933 Western North Carolina Conference. Mr. Waggoner came to this charge from Randolph circuit, where he had served two years. Prior to that he was pastor on the New Hope circuit for two years. He received



REV. D. R. PROFFITT
1929-1930

his A. B. degree from Duke University in 1927; his B. D. degree in 1931. Mrs. Waggoner, who before her marriage was Miss Sara Power, is also a graduate of Duke University. Mr. and Mrs. Waggoner have one small son, Gilbert, age 2. Mrs. H. A. Power, Mrs. Waggoner's mother, also makes her home at the parsonage.

Church Officials

The following tables show the official roll for church and Sunday School:

CHARGE LAY LEADER — J. O. Thomas.

DISTRICT STEWARD, J. F. Meisamer.

BOARD OF STEWARDS—J. F. Meisamer, chairman; J. O. Thomas, vice-chairman; W. D. Woodlief, secretary; E. M. Rush, treasurer; H. E. Wright, assistant treasurer; J. T. Smith, J. H. Haizlip, Virgil Taylor, D. O. Hughes, T. D. Smith, H. G. Miles, D. T. Spencer, J. J. Hodges, B. J. Ramsey, L. W. Martin, T. P. Shinn.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES — (Elected 1934) J. H. Haizlip, chairman; J. T. Smith, J. O. Thomas, T. P. Shinn, H. G. Miles.

MUSIC—Mrs. Allen W. Hancock, pianist; Mrs. Jesse Carter, assistant pianist.

SUNDAY SCHOOL—James T. Smith, superintendent; H. G. Miles assistant superintendent; D. O. Hughes, secretary-treasurer; Luther C. Hodges, assistant secretary-treasurer; Miss Claudine Hodges, pianist.

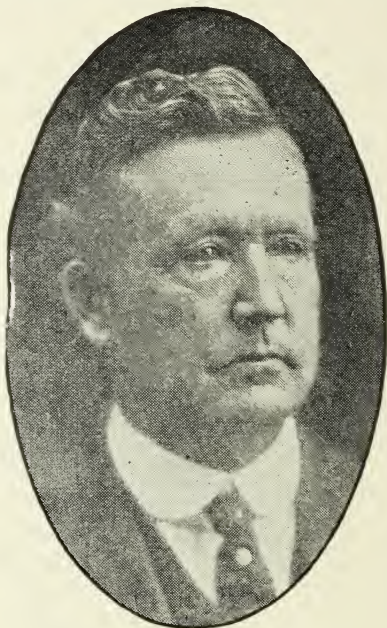
TEACHERS—J. F. Meisamer, Mrs. Beulah Haizlip, Mrs. A. C. Waggoner, J. O. Thomas, E. M. Rush, Virgil Taylor, T. P. Shinn, Miss Lillian Nichols, Miss Gladys Haizlip, Mrs. James T. Smith, Miss Margaret Andrews and H. G. Miles.

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY—Mrs. D. T. Spencer, president. Circle No. 1. Mrs. Allen W. Hancock, president; Circle No. 2 Mrs. James T. Smith, president.

EPWORTH LEAGUE—Virgil Taylor, president; Miss Estelle Hopper, vice-president; Miss Edith Cochran, secretary-treasurer.

New Sunday School Building

For many years members of the church and Sunday School have talked and prayed for a building that would adequately take care of a growing church school. By the spring of 1934 leaders in the school realized that the time had come when action must be substituted for talk. They were face to face with the problem of inadequate equipment



REV. SEYMOUR TAYLOR

1931

for carrying on the work. In order to have a physical structure that would measure up to standard for present and future needs, a building program was inaugurated. The second Quarterly Conference authorized the project and plans were immediately made to go forward with the work of erecting a building.

A building committee was appointed composed of J. F. Meisamer, chairman; D. T. Spencer, A. W. Hancock, Mrs. H. G. Miles, Mrs. Beulah Haizlip. After careful consideration of various plans, a plan submitted by J. W. Hopper, architect of Leaksville, was accepted. This plan called for a two-story, 11-room addition to the existing Sunday School wing.

A finance committee to secure funds for the erection of the building was appointed and was composed of J. O. Thomas, chairman; A. W. Hancock, E. M. Rush, J. T. Smith, J. F. Meisamer. J. T. Smith was made treasurer of the building fund.

It might be stated here that the Woman's Missionary Society was one of the prime movers in getting the movement under way for the starting of the building project. Circle No. 2, with only 24 members, had \$500.00 in building and loan shares which it pledged. The other group, Circle No. 1, also gave liberally. Too much credit for pushing the movement forward cannot be given these women's organizations.

Because of limited finances, a request was made for volunteer free labor. To those interested in the construction of the building, the response was most gratifying. Several men who were not church members gave untiringly of their skill and labor in the carpentry and other work. Among those so contributing of their time and skill were Early Land, Herbert Fulcher, J. D. Cochran and others. To John Smith, local contractor, goes much of the credit for the success of the construction up to its present state.

Work on the building has not been as rapid as desired because of the determination of the committee to try to pay as they build. At this time the building

is completely finished and painted on the outside. With their dream of an adequate Sunday School building so near realization, the members of Spray Methodist church are pressing on with new courage in their efforts to complete the structure within the next few months

When completed the new building will have 12 class rooms, counting two old ones being worked over, a dining and assembly room and a kitchen. This addition will add much to the appearance of the church and will meet a long felt need in the life of the church.

Facing the Future

Proud of its history and its accomplishments of the past and with childlike faith in God for its future, Spray Methodist Church faces the days ahead with a real determination to achieve more than ever before in the extension of God's kingdom in this community. God's blessings are humbly asked in the great undertakings of the future.

Supplement

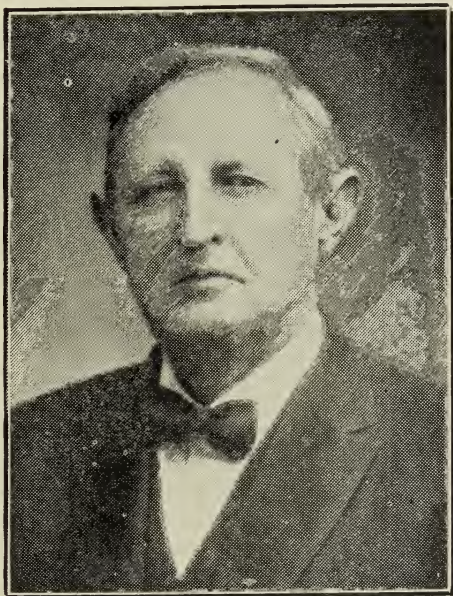
(Following is a brief account of the Homecoming Day program at Spray Methodist Church, at which time the historical sketch just given was read.)

Sunday, September 9, 1934, was a great day in the history of Spray Methodist Church. The auditorium was packed for the morning service and a large congregation attended the afternoon program.

Rev. T. C. Jordan, of Albemarle, N. C., a former pastor of the church, was present and for the morning service delivered a powerful sermon, his text being "Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away

the sin of world." Rev. A. C. Waggoner had charge of the program.

In the afternoon special vocal selections were given by the Draper quartet. The history of the church was read by J. O. Thomas. Rev. Charles E. Bowles, of Bessemer, son of the late Rev. J. A. Bowles, who conducted a revival here in the early days of the church, made a



REV. W. H. WILLIS
1932-1933

most interesting talk. Short talks were made by the four charter members present: W. D. Phillips, Mrs. Nannie Hamilton, Mrs. Jesse Vestal and Mrs. E. S. Fulcher. W. D. Phillips brought his letter from from the Leaksville Methodist Church and again became a member of the Spray church.

